

a country, and being a native of Germany and the northern parts of Europe, it must be considered as one of the most interesting additions that has been recently made to our native flora.—C. C. B.

TEGUMENTS OF GASTEROPOD MOLLUSCA.

Among the kinds of covering of Gasteropod Mollusca, no solid bodies have been noticed but such as are known under the name of Shells. In two genera near to *Doris*, all the fleshy part of the body is strewed in every direction with calcareous spiculæ. In one of them, these spiculæ stick out in such a manner that the animal has its body all bristled with prickles. Similar spiculæ have been met with in the mantle of a young *Bulla*. At a time when, thanks to the labours of Ehrenberg, the study of microscopic fossils has made an unexpected stride, these facts may be of some value in guarding zoologists against referring to Infusoria the remains of animals belonging to a much higher group.—*Comptes Rendus*, July 15, 1844.

NEST OF THE DINORNIS.

Description by Captains Cook and Flinders of Birds' Nests of enormous size on the coast of New Holland; by Prof. EDWARD HITCHCOCK, Dec. 22, 1843.

In lecturing on the huge footmarks of sandstone in the Connecticut valley, I have been in the habit for many years of reading to my classes, *as the poetry of the subject*, some statements from the twelfth volume of the 'Athenæum, or Spirit of the English Magazines' (p. 48), respecting enormously large birds and birds' nests. As some of these statements are manifestly fabulous, it never occurred to me till today to inquire whether any of them were true. I was led to make the inquiry probably by the astonishing discoveries of Prof. Owen respecting the *danger bird* of New Zealand; and the result is, that I have almost persuaded myself, that with the help of Captains Cook and Flinders *I have found the nest of the Dinornis on the coast of New Holland*. These navigators have given the following statements in their published voyages. I quote Cook's account from Kerr's 'Collection of Voyages and Travels,' vol. xiii. p. 318. It was Cook's first voyage. Lizard Island is near the north-east coast of New Holland, not far from Cape Flattery, and in about 15° S. lat.

"At two in the afternoon," says Cook, "there being no hope of clear weather, we set out from Lizard Island to return to the ship, and in our way landed upon the low sandy island with trees upon it which we had remarked in our going out. Upon this island we saw an incredible number of birds, chiefly sea-fowl; we found also the nest of an eagle with young ones, which we killed; and the nest of some other bird, we knew not what, of a most enormous size. It was built with sticks upon the ground, and was no less than six and twenty feet in circumference, and two feet eight inches high. To this spot we gave the name of Eagle Island," &c.

Capt. Flinders found two similar nests on the south coast of New Holland in King George's Bay. Not having his work at hand, I quote from the 'Quarterly Review' for October 1814 his description of these nests :—

"They were built upon the ground, from which they rose above two feet, and were of vast circumference and great interior capacity; the branches of trees and other matter of which each nest was composed being enough to fill a cart."

Now I suppose, from the character of Captains Cook and Flinders, we may place implicit confidence in the truth of these accounts. Indeed, Cook was accompanied to Eagle Island by Sir Joseph Banks. Equally certain is it that no known bird but the *Dinornis* would have built so enormous a nest. I am led therefore almost irresistibly to inquire whether the *Dinornis* may not be an inhabitant of the coast of New Holland, and still alive! Even if extinct upon New Zealand, it may have remained longer in the warmer climate of New Holland. It may be that these nests have been accounted for in some other way; but if so, I have seen no other explanation.

P.S. *Feb.* 1844.—Having occasion to give a lecture this winter before the Young Men's Association in Troy, N. Y., I had a drawing made of the *Dinornis* of the natural size, on the type of the *Apteryx* and *Cassowary*, and also of one of the nests described above, and I assure you that the nest was only of a *respectable size* for a bird sixteen feet high.—*Silliman's Journal*, July 1844.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR AUGUST 1844.

Chiswick.—August 1. Cloudy: boisterous: clear. 2. Clear and very fine. 3. Showery: boisterous. 4. Dusky clouds: clear and fine. 5. Cloudy and fine: rain. 6. Boisterous: clear and fine. 7. Clear: heavy shower at noon: clear and fine. 8, 9. Fine. 10. Slight haze: fine. 11. Very fine: rain. 12. Heavy rain. 13. Showery. 14. Rain: heavy squall: clear and fine at night. 15. Cloudy. 16. Very fine. 17. Densely overcast. 18, 19. Very fine. 20. Overcast: fine. 21—25. Cloudy and fine. 26. Cloudy. 27. Cloudy and dry. 28. Clear, with hot sun. 29. Cloudless and hot. 30. Fine. 31. Hot and dry.—Mean temperature of the month $2^{\circ} \cdot 57$ below the average.

Boston.—Aug. 1. Cloudy: rain early A.M.: rain A.M. 2. Fine. 3. Rain: rain early A.M.: rain with thunder and lightning A.M.: rain P.M. 4. Cloudy. 5. Fine: rain at night. 6. Cloudy. 7. Stormy: rain early A.M.: rain with thunder and lightning A.M. 8. Windy: rain A.M. 9. Windy. 10. Fine. 11. Fine: rain P.M. 12. Rain. 13. Fine. 14. Rain: rain early A.M.: rain A.M. and P.M. 15. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 16. Fine: rain P.M. 17. Cloudy. 18—21. Fine. 22—24. Cloudy. 25. Fine. 26. Cloudy. 27—31. Fine.

Sandwich Manse, Orkney.—Aug. 1. Cloudy: rain. 2. Bright: clear. 3. Showers: drizzle. 4. Damp: drizzle. 5. Cloudy. 6. Cloudy: rain. 7. Showers: cloudy. 8. Cloudy: showers. 9. Showers. 10—13. Bright: clear. 14. Bright: clear: fine. 15. Clear: fine. 16. Bright: cloudy: fine. 17. Showers: rain. 18. Bright: cloudy. 19. Bright: damp. 20. Showers. 21. Rain: drizzle. 22. Rain: damp. 23. Damp. 24. Damp: cloudy. 25. Bright: cloudy. 26. Drizzle: drops. 27. Drizzle: showers. 28. Bright: clear. 29. Clear. 30. Clear: warm. 31. Clear: cloudy: warm.

Applegarth Manse, Dumfries-shire.—Aug. 1—3. Showers. 4. Fair. 5. Fine. 6, 7. Heavy rain. 8. Rain A.M.: fair P.M. 9. A shower. 10. Fair A.M.: few drops P.M. 11. Fair A.M.: rain P.M. 12. Fair. 13. Showery. 14. Showery: thunder. 15. Fair. 16. Rain P.M. 17. Heavy showers. 18. Fair and clear. 19. Heavy showers. 20. Fair. 21. Fair: a few drops. 22. Rain. 23. Heavy shower P.M. 24. One shower. 25—31. Fair and fine.

Mean temperature of the month	$54^{\circ} \cdot 6$
Mean temperature of Aug. 1843	$58 \cdot 0$
Mean temperature of spring-water	$52 \cdot 5$
Mean temperature of ditto Aug. 1843	$53 \cdot 5$

Days of Month.	Barometer.						Thermometer.						Wind.				Rain.		
	Chiswick.		8 $\frac{1}{2}$ a.m.	Dumfries-shire.		Orkney, Sandwick.		Chiswick.		8 $\frac{1}{2}$ a.m.	Dumfries-shire.		Orkney, Sandwick.	Chiswick.	Dumfries-shire.	Orkney, Sandwick.	Chiswick.	Dumfries-shire.	Orkney, Sandwick.
	Max.	Min.		9 a.m.	9 p.m.	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ a.m.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.m.	Max.	Min.		9 a.m.	8 p.m.							
1844. Aug.																			
1.	29.807	29.732	29.15	29.42	29.55	29.51	29.50	71	45	57	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	51	57	53	w.	ssw.	w.	.48	
2.	29.868	29.774	29.29	29.67	29.68	29.66	29.71	72	49	60	61	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	56	54	w.	sw.	w.	.22	
3.	29.469	29.427	29.03	29.40	29.34	29.58	29.56	52	57	57	55	40	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	53	s.	e.	ne.	.04	
4.	29.833	29.683	29.05	29.49	29.61	29.58	29.71	77	44	58	62	50	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	w.	nw.	ne.	.41	
5.	29.833	29.632	29.19	29.70	29.63	29.79	29.79	72	57	64	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	59	53	s.	calm	e.	.07	
6.	29.587	29.522	28.81	29.24	29.00	29.66	29.44	71	52	66	65	53	57	54	sw.	se.	e.	.37	
7.	29.656	29.621	29.00	29.15	29.25	29.14	29.10	71	50	62	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	55	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	sw.	w.	e.	.45	
8.	29.712	29.614	29.03	29.23	29.38	29.13	29.33	72	47	61.5	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	51	59	54	w.	w.	nnw.	.17	
9.	29.756	29.733	29.16	29.53	29.54	29.46	29.52	74	45	62	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	51	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	w.	ws.	nw.	.14	
10.	29.744	29.591	29.14	29.53	29.59	29.60	29.66	76	41	61	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	43	57	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	calm	w to n	nw.	.10	
11.	29.783	29.550	29.27	29.60	29.50	29.65	29.67	73	54	61.5	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	51	sw.	calm	s.	.12	
12.	29.608	29.374	28.80	29.43	29.53	29.67	29.66	70	54	61.5	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	49	w.	calm	ne.	.33	
13.	29.641	29.531	29.07	29.45	29.35	29.56	29.48	65	51	60	64	49	58	51	sw.	calm	sw.	.24	
14.	29.424	29.331	28.80	29.18	29.35	29.43	29.56	65	49	57	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	49	59	51	calm	nw.	e.	.30	
15.	29.744	29.552	29.04	29.52	29.68	29.68	29.75	68	47	57	63	49	56	55	nw.	calm	n.	.49	
16.	29.919	29.836	29.31	29.75	29.53	29.77	29.71	77	57	60	58	44	56	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	w.	w.01	
17.	29.880	29.768	29.11	29.50	29.74	29.63	29.74	69	47	61	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	52	50	w.	w.	nnw.	.21	
18.	30.092	30.060	29.56	29.92	30.04	29.97	30.08	69	43	59.5	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	44	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	nw.	nw.	nw.	.30	
19.	30.119	30.041	29.52	30.02	29.82	29.98	29.78	72	60	58	60	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	54	53	w.	sw.	se.	.01	
20.	29.901	29.768	29.20	29.72	29.63	29.60	29.63	78	51	67	57	48	50	49	w.	w.	nnw.	.09	
21.	29.747	29.727	29.10	29.58	29.58	29.59	29.60	65	52	58	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	51	49	calm	calm	n.	.42	
22.	29.727	29.698	29.12	29.53	29.52	29.57	29.55	67	42	57	58	50	51	52	w.	calm	w.	.05	
23.	29.726	29.673	29.16	29.49	29.57	29.59	29.67	69	38	58	64	49	55	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	sw.	calm	sw.	.04	
24.	29.746	29.659	29.13	29.65	29.70	29.76	29.80	71	49	58.5	60	45	56	52	sw.	calm	w.	.04	
25.	29.976	29.902	29.25	29.79	29.84	29.81	29.85	73	50	57	61	47	54	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	nnw.	calm	nnw.	
26.	30.052	30.007	29.39	29.84	29.92	29.85	29.88	66	47	58	60	41	54	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	w.	calm	nnw.	
27.	30.082	30.078	29.50	29.98	30.00	29.94	30.03	71	38	56	65	39	51	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	sw.	calm	sw.	
28.	30.137	30.110	29.59	30.05	30.06	30.05	30.08	78	40	53	68	43	51	53	w.	calm	sw.	
29.	30.138	30.113	29.58	30.06	30.01	30.08	30.03	79	42	60	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	54	e.	calm	w.	
30.	30.182	30.127	29.55	30.04	30.07	30.03	30.09	72	42	61	68	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	59	56	calm	calm	sw.	0.18	
31.	30.292	30.278	29.71	30.20	30.21	30.22	30.22	80	44	61.5	70	48	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	54	se.	calm	sw.	
Mean.	29.844	29.758	29.21	29.627	29.636	29.146	29.199	71.67	47.71	59.6	61.5	47.2	54.87	52.16					1.84 2.57 2.18 2.86